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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHARLTON KINGS

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

STEPHEN KNIGHT

M.B., B.S.(Lond), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.F.H.

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector

W.L.BOOY, A.I.A.S.
Corporate Surveyor
Certified Sanitary Inspector

Pests Officer

L.H.SILVEY



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To the Chairman & Members of
CHARLTON KINGS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr.Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to submit again the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District.

Mr.W.L.Booy, the Council's Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor reports on the sanitary inspection of the District and the refuse collection service.

The population according to the Registrar General's estimate is 6,160, an increase of 140 over the previous year.

Births numbered 72, five less than in 1954; the Birth Rate falling to 11.7 as compared with the Birth Rate for England and Wales of 15.0. Owing to the large proportion of elderly people in the District a relatively low birth rate is to be expected.

There were 76 deaths making the Death Rate 12.3 as against 11.7 for England and Wales. There was only one death of an infant under one year of age, so that the infantile mortality rate is very low.

The District was again free of outbreaks of serious infectious diseases.

My sincere thanks are due to the staff for their ready co-operation, and to the Members of the Council for their help and consideration.

I am, Mr.Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1956.

CHARLTON KINGS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	3,399
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population (including members of the Armed Forces)	6,160
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955)	2,034
Rateable Value (at 31.3.56)	£81,207
Sum represented by a penny rate 1955/56	£197
1956/57	£312

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	70	39	31
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>72</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>32</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	11.7		
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	1.15		
Corrected Birth Rate (11.7 x 1.15)	13.5		

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	0.65		
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	53.0		

DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	76	35	41
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	12.3		
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	0.74		
Corrected Death Rate (12.3 x 0.74)	9.1		

DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION ... NIL

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Infantile Mortality)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1	1	-
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

All infants per 1,000 Live Births ... 14.0

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE
(Neonatal Mortality)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 14.0

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis respiratory	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach	2	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	6
18. Coronary disease, angina	11	4
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	2
20. Other heart disease	6	9
21. Other circulatory disease	-	4
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	-
24. Bronchitis	1	2
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
34. All other accidents	1	3
35. Suicide	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
All causes	35	41

BIRTH, DEATH, AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES
IN THE DISTRICT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	10.9	14.4	13.1	12.8	11.7
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	16.9	13.6	12.2	13.6	12.3
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of Infants under 1 year)	63.0	35.0	13.0	13.0	14.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of Infants under 1 month)	47.0	35.0	13.0	13.0	14.0

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE
MORTALITY RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, Etc.
ARE GIVEN BELOW

	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>County of Glos.</u>	<u>Charlton Kings U.D.</u>
Live Births	15.0	15.42	11.7
Still Births (per 1,000 total births)	23.1	22.8	53.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.7	11.44	12.3
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 year) (per 1,000 Live Births)	24.9	24.1	14.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 month) (per 1,000 Live Births)	17.3	17.89	14.0

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES
(Excluding Tuberculosis)

	<u>Under 1yr.</u> M.F.	<u>1-5</u> M.F.	<u>5-14</u> M.F.	<u>15-25</u> M.F.	<u>over 25</u> M. F.	<u>Total</u> M. F.
Scarlet Fever						- -
Diphtheria						- -
Whooping Cough						- -
Measles	3.1.	15.14.	11.5.-	- -	- -	29 20
Poliomyelitis						
Paralytic	= =	= =	1.	= =	= =	1 =
Non-paralytic						
	<u>Under 5yrs,</u> M. F.	<u>5-14</u> M.F.	<u>15-44</u> M.F.	<u>45-64</u> M.F.	<u>65 & over</u> M. F.	<u>Total</u> M.F.
Pneumonia	- -	- -	- 1	- -	- -	- 1
Erysipelas	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Cerebro spianl fever						- -
Dysentery						- -
Puerperal Pyrexia			1			1

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

	<u>Children</u>		<u>All Persons</u>
	0 - 4.	5 - 14.	
Respiratory	-	-	3
Meninges & C.N.S.	-	-	-
Other Forms	-	-	-

Deaths

Respiratory	1
Meninges & C.N.S.	-
Other Forms	-

Tuberculosis Register

The number of cases on the register, 31st. December 1955, was as follows :-

<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>C.N.S.</u>	<u>Other Forms</u>			<u>All Forms</u>
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
22	15	37	Nil	3	1	4	41

There were three new cases of tuberculosis, the same number as in the previous year. One person died from the disease.

The number of persons on the register remains much the same, so that although modern treatment has brought about a great decline in the death rate from the disease the risk of infection is unchanged.

The Council have rehoused families so that an infective person is able to have a separate room.

Early diagnosis increases the chances of cure and shortens the period of treatment. Mass Radiography is the chief means by which early cases are discovered. Increased use should be made of this service.

Vaccination against tuberculosis is now offered to thirteen year old school children in Gloucestershire. The response is most encouraging. The protection afforded to the young person at a time of life when he is particularly susceptible should bring about a decline in the number of new cases.

VACCINATION

The following table sets out the details of the records of vaccination received during the year :

	<u>Under 1 year.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2 - 4</u>	<u>5-14</u>	<u>15 or over</u>	<u>Total</u>
Vaccination	27	7	-	-	2	36
Re-vaccination	-	-	-	4	14	18

Proportion of children vaccinated under 1 year of age expressed as a percentage of the estimated number of births during the year :-

<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
25%	25%	28%	37%	35%

Not so many children were vaccinated as in the previous year. 36 as compared with 44 in 1954. Vaccinated people are the chief barrier to the spread of smallpox. It is considered that at least 50% of the babies born should be vaccinated in order to safeguard the community against epidemics of smallpox.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st. December 1955:

Age at 31.12.55 - i.e. born in year	<u>Under 1 1955</u>	<u>1. 1954</u>	<u>2. 1953</u>	<u>3. 1952</u>	<u>4. 1951</u>	<u>5 - 9 1950-46</u>	<u>10 - 14 1945-41</u>
Number immunised	4	41	58	50	50	349	265
Total number immunised	817						

Number of children immunised in:	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
Primary	56	53	60	58	73
Maintenance	88	77	53	74	42

There was an increase in the number of children immunised, 56 as compared with 53 in 1954, but of these only 14 were under one year of age. The acceptance rate for babies in their first year is only twenty per cent, whereas to safeguard the community against outbreaks of diphtheria, three times as many babies should be immunised before their first birthday.

Immunisation is often postponed in the summer months because of the prevalence of poliomyelitis.

FOOD POISONING

No case of food poisoning was notified.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938. - Clean Food.

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are in force for securing hygienic methods in the Handling, Wrapping, and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air.

Food shops and similar establishments are inspected regularly to ensure that the food is wholesome and that the premises comply with requirements.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955

These Regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, replace Section 13 of the 1938 Act, as the principal law relating to food hygiene.

The application of these new Regulations is much more extensive in that they apply, generally speaking, not only to food shops but to all "food businesses", and include canteens, clubs, schools and so on.

In the main the Regulations came into force on January 1st., 1956, and are designed to prevent contamination of food. Those requirements dealing with structural alterations e.g. the provision of sinks, washbasins etc., do not become operative until July 1st., 1956.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47 Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention

No application was made to the Court for a Removal Order under this Section.

The Home Help Service provides for the need of some of these lonely old people and enables them to carry on in their own homes.

The activity of the Old People's Clubs is particularly valuable in preventing bad conditions arising. Absentees from the Meetings are visited, and help, if required, is given at an early stage when it is most useful.

The Old People's Welfare Committee is maintaining a register of old people living alone in the area.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Samples taken under the Public Health Acts and pathological specimens are sent for bacteriological analysis to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford. The laboratory is part of the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Ministry of Health, and no charge is made for making use of its services.

Chemical examination of specimens is undertaken by Messrs. Ellis & Turner, Public Analysts, Gloucester.

Home Help Service

This Service is organised by the County Council, and a charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

The Home Help takes over the running of the home where the housewife is temporarily incapacitated through illness.

As noted elsewhere, the Service is very useful to old people who can no longer manage the household duties because of infirmity.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made to the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings, telephone number Cheltenham 55746.

Nursing in the Home

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the Health Committee of the County Council. Information is available from the Divisional Health Office, Charlton Kings.

District Nurse: Nurse Clifford, "Bermalee",
Little Herberts Road, Charlton Kings.
Telephone number - 52523.

Child Welfare Centre

Meetings of the Charlton Kings Child Welfare Centre are held in the Holy Apostles Church Hall, London Road, every Tuesday at 2.30p.m.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Urban District Council is within the statutory water supply area of the Cheltenham Corporation Water Undertaking. The supply was satisfactory throughout the year both in respect of quality and quantity.

During the year 50 houses were connected to the public water mains, comprising 47 new houses and 3 existing houses.

The following table gives the position with regard to the public supply. Those houses which are not supplied from the public mains are in the high parts of the District, where private piped supplies from nearby springs are available.

<u>Total</u>		(a) <u>Direct into</u> <u>house</u>	(b) <u>By</u> <u>Standpipe</u>
2034	No. of houses)	supplied by (1824	9
6160	No. of population)	public (mains (5524	27

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR

W.L. BOOY

HOUSING

a) Summary

- 1) The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be in some respect unfit for human habitation ... 11
- 2) The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 10

3. The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to -
 - a) the serving of Notices requiring the execution of works 1
 - b) the making of demolition or closing orders .. 1
4. The number of Notices served requiring the execution of works 10
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice ... 0
6. The number of demolition or closing orders made 1
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under :-

Section 11, Housing Act 1936	..0
Housing Act, 1954	..0
8. The number of houses demolished ...0

b) Slum Clearance

The Council's proposals under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were submitted to the Minister in September 1955.

As predicted in the previous Annual Report the problem proved to be a small one. Of those houses listed for action it is considered that few will require demolition, since increased building costs render economic the renovation of almost any structure in the area.

c) Improvement Grants

Interest in Improvement Grants increased during the year. There were numerous enquiries arising out of which 11 applications were received. Of these, 10 received the Council's approval.

d) Rent Control - Housing Repair & Rents Act 1954.

There were no applications for "Certificates of Disrepair", although a number of enquiries concerning rent matters were received.

Rehousing

A block of 12 - three storey flats at Ewens Farm was completed during the year. These flats were built after an analysis of the Council's lists had shown that the majority of the remaining applicants had small families, suited to this type of accommodation. In June a scheme of 36 similar flats at Hearne Road was commenced, and by the end of the year substantial progress had been made.

In October a scheme of 8 - one bedroom old persons flats in School Road was commenced.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The sewerage system is becoming heavily loaded due to increasing building development. However apart from occasional surcharging in exceptional storms, there was no evidence that any section of the system had actually become overloaded. The necessity of increasing the size of sections of the sewerage system is bound to become apparent as the pace of building development quickens.

Early in the year, the sewer in Newcourt Road ceased to function due to gradual silting up. It was necessary to relay a considerable portion of the sewer, the work being rendered difficult by the extremely cold weather and the periodic full-bore discharge of wash water from the Diamond Laundry. The work proceeded for about a fortnight, and due to the difficulties mentioned, many of the operations had to be carried out at night.

The periodic vacuum cleansing of the road gullies was instituted during the year. The process proved very successful and arrangements have since been made for cleansing at four monthly intervals.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse collection arrangements were thoroughly overhauled early in the year. By making more use of available transport and reorganising the routes, the frequency of collection was improved from 14 to 7 days. The service was then maintained, with the exception only of holiday delays, on a 7 days collection basis.

Towards the end of the year, the increase in house building made the provision of a second collection vehicle an urgent necessity.

Refuse Disposal

Refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused sandpit, situated in the heart of the district. Due to the close proximity of dwelling houses every practicable precaution was taken to prevent any nuisance.

The periodical use of hired mechanical plant enabled adequate material to be made available for covering the refuse. There was no evidence of rat infestation throughout the year.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

Following the relaxation of building controls, private development increased considerably. Apart from numerous houses on individual sites throughout the district, work was proceeding on 4 estates, which when complete will comprise over 300 houses.

The number of private houses completed during the year was 52.

During the year 117 plans were approved under Building Byelaws.

Food Premises & Food Hygiene

As in previous years, a number of visits were made to food shops and similar premises.

The number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Acts are :-

Registered for the sale of ice-cream ...	14
Registered for the manufacture of sausages, preserved food etc. ...	2

Food inspection work was negligible, only one visit was made in relation to unfit foodstuffs.

The centralisation of slaughter at the Cheltenham Abattoir continued, and any fears as to the possible inadequacy of this arrangement proved to be groundless.

Milk Supplies

The position relating to milk supplies remained the same as for the previous year, with no registered dairies in the area and 8 distributors.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The demand for sites for moveable dwellings again showed no marked increase. The number of licensed caravans remained more or less static, at around 10.

FACTORIES ACT 1937

The number of factories on the register for the year was 23. With few exceptions all are small concerns employing only one or two workers.

The majority were visited during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council's scheme introduced in April 1951, under the Prevention of Damage by Pest Act 1949, continued to operate successfully.

The following is a summary of the annual report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture for the period March 1955 to March 1956.

No. of properties inspected

a) Upon complaint	...	61
b) By survey	...	607

No. of properties found to be infested

a) By rats	...	64
b) By mice	...	53

Treatments were carried out to the sewers in April and October. Both treatments showed that the incidence of rats in the sewers had again declined. The degree of infestation was almost negligible.